Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 25 (currently amended):   A business method for determining and signaling content quality of preexisting independently created data provided between a source and a receiver of the preexisting data content, the preexisting independently created data having at least one record, the at least one record having at least one data field, the business method comprising the following steps:

    accessing the preexisting independently created data;

    assessing the quality of the content of the preexisting independently created data using one or more predefined sets of criteria ~~corresponding to a business~~;

    assigning a grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting independently created data as a function of ~~for at least one of~~ the one or more predefined sets of criteria; and,

    marking the preexisting independently created data with the assigned grade without changing the content of the preexisting independently created data;

    wherein the receiver dynamically ~~accesses~~ evaluates the marked grade ~~of the data~~ to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting independently created data without ~~having to access~~ accessing the preexisting independently created data whereby suitability for a particular subsequent use is a function of the marked grade and the particular subsequent use.

Claim 26 (previously presented):   The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the step of linking further comprises associating a portion of a file name to the grade.

Claim 27 (currently amended):   The business method as recited in claim 26 wherein the filename corresponds to a file containing the preexisting <u>independently created</u> data.

Claim 28 (previously presented):   The business method as recited in claim 25 further comprising associating a grade file with the grade.

Claim 29 (previously presented):   The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the quality corresponds to a particular data field of the at least one data field.

Claim 30 (previously presented):   The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the quality corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

Claim 31 (previously presented):.   The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein a particular quality corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

Claim 32 (previously presented):   The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein a particular quality corresponds to a particular field of the at least one particular field.

Claim 33 (previously presented):   The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is a predefined function.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality uses access to a database.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is an externally defined function.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality uses access to an independent database.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade is numeric.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade is a color.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade is a Boolean.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the business is sales.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade corresponds to merchandise quality.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the data corresponds to direct marketing data.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the data corresponds to mailing addresses.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the step of linking further comprises associating the grade to a data set.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is customized by the business.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 further comprising assigning a rating as a function of the grade.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the data corresponds to documentation.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The business method as recited in claim 473 wherein the grade corresponds to the version of the documentation.